

## Monthly Report August 2019

A very busy few weeks since returning from our winter hiatus.

Project Hercules is drawing to a close with three of the six videos already completed. There was a lot of activity this month with the filming of what is known as B-roll footage; that is supplemental footage inserted as a cutaway to help tell the story. Michael Cannon and Nick Higgins did a lot of post-production work on the first three to be released and have more work to do on the final three - we expect completion within the next 2 - 3 weeks

Quite a lot of time in the last few weeks has been taken by setting up and commencing the regional employment trial program (RET). We have done the first two weeks of training and I'm pleased to announce that one of the participants has been able to use the skills we have imparted to secure himself a full-time job; and he started Monday.

Phil is a 62-year-old man that's been unemployed on an off for the last few years and was lacking good quality interview techniques. We were able to refine his behaviour and lift his confidence and self-esteem; we are very proud that we've been able to assist him in getting back into the workforce.

We still have four weeks to go in the first program and hope at the end of it we are sitting in an empty room as all our participants will have gained employment - we can only hope. We have been using some small business operators to help the participants. Thanks to Ethan Butler (The Good Place), Oscar Williams (Pipo) Ryan Petterwood (Todd Rogers Signs) plus WHS specialist Janelle Whitehouse from TCCI.

I attended the AGM of the Burnie Tourism Association last week. At that meeting the BTA confirmed its intention via a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to suspend the operation and fold their association into our organisation and act as our tourism and hospitality college. As their membership is somewhat limited, they recognise the value of being part of a larger organisation such as ours. I attach a copy of the MOU for your perusal and this will be discussed at our meeting this Wednesday.

The Federal election maybe done and dusted but at that has not stopped a procession of federal politicians coming through and meeting with us. Last month I had Tasmanian ALP senators Brown, Bilyk and Urquhart visit us on a fact-finding mission regarding infrastructure requirements in our region. Last week we received somewhat of a surprise visit from the federal treasurer Josh Frydenberg MP. Josh held a Q&A session for around one hour up at Wellers Inn and was very well received. To round out our busy month Justin and I will be attending lunch with the deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack on Thursday in Devonport.

Another major activity for this last month was the launch of our rebranding exercise. Most of you will know by now the purpose behind this is to extend our geographical coverage plus deepen our membership within younger business people and attract a more diverse range of businesses. So far, the rebranding to Business Northwest has been received very positively among the membership and we have attracted two new members in recent days.

Mental health week is being held in October and Cyndia Hilliger of the Wynyard Waterfront Motel is going to be conducting some mental health seminars on October 9. There will be more information coming in the next few weeks regarding that, but we see the support of small businesses operators experiencing mental health issues to be a major focus of our effort in coming months.

Thank you for your support over the last year – it has flown by.

Best wishes



Ian Jones

PRESIDENT

